

# The Wisconsin Society of the Sons of the American Revolution



My name is Russ Buhr. I am the State President of the Wisconsin Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. With me today are Rod Minter, Aupaumut Chapter President, Don Hall, a former Aupaumut Chapter President and our State Historian, and Kim Heltemes, our State 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President.

We would like to thank the Committee on Transportation and Committee Chairman State Representative Petrowski for giving us this opportunity to address AB 351. The Wisconsin Society of the Sons of the American Revolution would like to extend a very special thank you to State Representative Hines, State Senator Risser, and David Vieth of the Department of Transportation and their staffs for all their assistance in this matter.

I would like to provide you with some background information about the Wisconsin Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

The United States of America became this great, independent country when our ancestors started and successfully won the American Revolution. Sons of the American Revolution is a society that was established about the time of the first centennial anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1876 when a group of surviving ancestors of the Revolutionary Patriots formed a parade entry. The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution was founded on April 30, 1889, and incorporated by an act of Congress in June 9th, 1906. Membership consists of male descendants of those Patriots who, during the American Revolution, rendered unwavering loyal service to the cause of winning our freedom from England.

The Wisconsin Society of the Sons of the American Revolution is a state organization with several active chapters. The objectives of this Society are declared to be patriotic, historical, and educational, and shall include those intended or designed to perpetuate the memory of those who, by their services or sacrifices during the war of the American Revolution, achieved the independence of the American people; unite and promote fellowship among their descendants, to inspire them and the community at large with a more profound reverence for the principles of the government founded by our fathers; to encourage historical research in relation to the American Revolution; to acquire and preserve the records of the individual services of the patriots of the war, as well as documents, relics, and landmarks; to mark the scenes of the Revolution by appropriate memorials; to celebrate the anniversaries of the prominent events of the war and the Revolutionary period; to foster true patriotism; to maintain and defend the institutions of American freedom, and carry out the purposes expressed in the Preamble of the Constitution.

Programs and activities sponsored and supported by the Wisconsin Society are many and varied. Our chapters are involved in history and genealogical research. In the area of education, we sponsor essay contests for high school students and recognition of Eagle Scouts. Medals and awards are given in recognition of law enforcement officers and for JROTC and ROTC cadets. Our Color Guard has marched in many community parades throughout the state of Wisconsin.

One of the many activities of the Sons of the American Revolution is identifying and marking gravesites where Revolutionary War Patriots are buried. Several references have identified 41 patriots buried in Wisconsin. Our Society members with the aid of the Daughters of the American Revolution have verified the locations of most of these gravesites. So far we have honored 10 of our Revolutionary Compatriots with a State Historical Marker in the cemeteries where they are interred.

We are also presently publishing a booklet on the 41 Revolutionary Veterans buried in Wisconsin. This booklet will give a brief biography of the Compatriot, the cemetery where he is buried, and a photo of the gravestone. We are also including a GPS number to help identify the gravesite. We will be placing this booklet in our state's public and private libraries and schools.

Today we are asking for your support of AB 351 that would designate the bridge on Interstate Highway 39,90,94 across the Wisconsin River between the towns of Dekorra and Caledonia as the "Veterans of the American Revolution Memorial Bridge" This would serve as a memorial to the Revolutionary Veterans who are buried in Wisconsin who have honorably served this nation during the American Revolution. We have highways in the state to honor our veterans of World War 1 and 2, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. Let us not forget our original veterans – those of the Revolutionary War. No state funds, other than from contributions from interested parties, will be used for the erection or maintenance of a marker to be placed at the two interstate rest areas near the bridge.

Again we thank you for giving us this opportunity to speak in support of AB - 351, and we would greatly appreciate your support of this Bill.

Do you have any questions for us?

(Bridge)

**Cemeteries where American Revolutionary Patriots are Buried**  
(Alpha Order by County)

<u>Cemetery</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Patriot</u>	<u>Marker Status</u>
Holy Apostles	Brown	Powlis, James	Partial Funding
Ft. Winnebago	Columbia	Pixley, Cooper	Partial Funding
Ft. Winnebago	Columbia	Porter, Alexander	Partial Funding
Prairie Mound	Dane	Ames, Nathaniel	Placed
Burnett Corners	Dodge	Holcomb, Levi	Gvt. Stone
Clyman Center/School #3	Dodge	Noyes, Gershom	
Evergreen	Dunn	Tainter, Stephen	Partial Funding
Oak Center	Fond du Lac	Howard, Andrew	
Hillside	Grant	Mitchell, Samuel	Gvt. Stone
Whig	Grant	Reams, George	Gvt. Stone
Shook's	Green	Bailey, Robert	
Greenwood	Jefferson	Brown, Eliada	Bronze Marker
Green Ridge	Kenosha	Barlow, Abner	
Green Ridge	Kenosha	Coleman, John	In Memory Of
Green Ridge	Kenosha	Elkins, Jonathon	
Liberty Corners	Kenosha	Paddock, David	Partial Funding
Milwaukee War Memorial	Milwaukee	Dill Sr, George	In Memory Of
Milwaukee War Memorial	Milwaukee	Shurtleff, John	In Memory Of
Milwaukee War Memorial	Milwaukee	Worden, Jesse	In Memory Of
Old Stockbridge	Outagamie	Aupaumut, Hendrick	Placed
Old Stockbridge	Outagamie	Konkapot, Jacob	Placed
Union Grove	Racine	Cadwell, Phineas	Received
Honey Creek	Racine	Child, Salmon	Bronze Marker
Sylvania	Racine	Kellogg, Belmont	Gvt. Stone
Mound	Racine	Carver, Rufus	Ordered
Mound	Racine	Whiting, Ebenezer	Ordered
Mound	Racine	Raymond, Elisha	Ordered
Mound	Racine	Search, Lot	Ordered
United Presbyterian	Racine	Lytle, Andrew	Bronze Marker
Burlington School Grounds	Racine	Smith, Aaron	In Memory Of
Mt. Philips	Rock	Allen, Philip	Gvt. Stone
Wildwood	Sheboygan	Waldo, David	Partial Funding
Dellona Center	Sauk	John Greenslit	Placed
Oak Grove	Walworth	Ferris, Israel	Gvt. Stone
Little Prairie	Walworth	Janes, David	Bronze Marker
Old Lyonsdale	Walworth	Lyon, Thomas	Gvt. Stone
Oak Grove	Walworth	Pierce, Eli	Gvt. Stone
Oak Hill	Waukesha	Hatch, Nathan	
Wauwatosa	Waukesha	Morgan, James	Partial Funding
Mukwonago VFW Club	Waukesha	Thompson, Amos	In Memory Of
Winchester	Winnebago	Rogers Sr, Samuel N	Placed





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# J.A. HINES

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 42ND ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Testimony on AB 351  
Assembly Committee on Transportation

I want to thank Chairperson Petrowski and the Committee for hearing Assembly Bill 351 this morning. The bill is short and very straightforward so I will keep my comments brief since other members from the Wisconsin Society of the Sons of the American Revolution will be testifying.

Since the early 30's, this organization has been tasked with finding the final resting places of the patriots who chose to move to the Wisconsin Territory following the Revolutionary war. To date, 41 patriots have been identified in Wisconsin, and I can think of no better way to memorialize their sacrifice then honoring them with on one of Wisconsin's most traveled highways.

This legislation would designate the bridge on I 39/90/94 over the Wisconsin River between Dekorra and Caledonia in Columbia County as the "Veterans of the American Revolution Memorial Bridge." The signs designating the bridge would be placed at the waysides near the bridge to enable greater visibility for the organization and to not interfere with any Department of Transportation regulations. I have been in contact with the Department and they have not raised any objections to having informational signs placed at the waysides.

I would go into greater detail about the history and positive effects this will have statewide, but I would like to yield that information to the representatives from the organization.

I thank the Committee again for its attention to this matter and I urge the members to pass AB 351.





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